

**Appendix 3: Effects of restrictions to control an outbreak of severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) on ambulatory-care visits, outpatient diagnostic testing and drug prescription rates**

Variable	Affected region (Greater Toronto Area)						Comparison regions in Ontario (London, Ottawa)					
	Monthly pre-SARS rate per 1000, mean (95% CI)		Adjusted relative change*				Monthly pre-SARS rate per 1000, mean (95% CI)		Adjusted relative change*			
			Early SARS restriction period†		Late SARS restriction period‡				Early SARS restriction period†		Late SARS restriction period‡	
Ambulatory care visits												
Primary care												
Overall	353.44	(321.06-385.82)	0.96	(0.93-1.00)	0.97	(0.93-1.01)	285.59	(266.22-304.97)	1.03	(1.00-1.06)	1.01	(0.98-1.04)
Childhood immunizations§	104.07	(93.77-114.37)	0.93	(0.87-0.98)	0.99	(0.94-1.05)	84.41	(78.33-90.50)	1.06	(1.02-1.10)¶	1.01	(0.97-1.05)
Well baby§	156.73	(143.85-169.61)	0.91	(0.88-0.94)¶	0.98	(0.94-1.01)	127.88	(120.88-134.89)	1.04	(1.01-1.07)	1.00	(0.97-1.03)
Prenatal	42.76	(39.86-45.65)	0.98	(0.95-1.01)	1.00	(0.97-1.04)	37.90	(36.33-39.47)	1.01	(0.99-1.04)	1.02	(0.99-1.05)
Cardiology	3.88	(3.52-4.24)	0.82	(0.79-0.84)¶	0.94	(0.91-0.97)¶	2.39	(1.87-2.92)	0.89	(0.85-0.93)¶	0.93	(0.89-0.98)¶
General internal medicine	29.51	(27.13-31.90)	0.82	(0.81-0.84)¶	0.93	(0.91-0.95)¶	25.72	(23.65-27.78)	0.89	(0.88-0.91)¶	0.96	(0.94-0.98)
Outpatient diagnostic testing												
Computed tomography	8.70	(8.11-9.29)	0.74	(0.72-0.76)¶	0.87	(0.85-0.89)¶	8.92	(8.48-9.35)	0.97	(0.94-1.00)	0.96	(0.94-0.99)
Magnetic resonance imaging	1.76	(1.63-1.89)	0.58	(0.55-0.60)¶	0.78	(0.75-0.81)¶	1.38	(1.30-1.45)	0.86	(0.81-0.92)¶	0.85	(0.80-0.91)¶
Electrocardiogram	28.50	(26.19-30.82)	0.83	(0.80-0.85)¶	0.94	(0.91-0.97)¶	20.98	(19.57-22.39)	0.91	(0.89-0.93)¶	0.97	(0.94-0.99)
Cardiac catheterization	0.48	(0.45-0.51)	0.60	(0.54-0.67)¶	0.76	(0.69-0.85)¶	0.42	(0.40-0.45)	0.85	(0.74-0.96)¶	0.92	(0.79-1.05)
Echocardiogram	4.28	(3.90-4.66)	0.79	(0.77-0.81)¶	0.94	(0.91-0.97)¶	2.30	(2.18-2.43)	0.91	(0.88-0.95)¶	0.99	(0.96-1.03)
Drug prescriptions (per capita)												
Anti-glycemics	0.08	(0.075-0.086)	0.98	(0.96-1.00)	0.99	(0.97-1.01)	0.065	(0.059-0.070)	0.99	(0.96-1.02)	0.98	(0.95-1.02)
Anti-hypertensives	0.39	(0.36-0.41)	0.98	(0.96-1.00)	0.98	(0.96-1.01)	0.39	(0.37-0.41)	0.99	(0.96-1.02)	0.98	(0.95-1.01)
Inhalers	50.20	(46.29-54.10)	1.01	(0.98-1.05)	0.98	(0.94-1.02)	51.15	(48.32-53.98)	0.98	(0.95-1.01)	0.99	(0.96-1.02)

Note: CI = confidence interval.

\*Adjusted for age group, sex, pre- and post-restriction calendar month, and annual trend.

†Mar. 15 to May 14, 2003.

‡May 15 to July 14, 2003.

§Among children aged 0-2 years.

¶Clinically (> 5%) and statistically ( $p < 0.05$ ) significant change in use rate.